GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4551
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
CENTRAL SILK BOARD
SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of the Central Silk Board;

(b) whether the Bhagalpur (Bihar) Branch of Central Silk Board has launched any scheme for weavers since 1995;

(c) if so, the details of achievements and expenditure incurred during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Bhagalpur branch of the Central Silk Board has purchased a sophisticated machinery for its laboratory to be used by the local silk weavers; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not functioning of its laboratory?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) The main functions assigned to Central Silk Board (CSB) under the act are as under:

1. Promoting the development of silk industry by such measures as it thinks fit;

2. Undertaking, assisting or encouraging scientific, technological and economic research;

3. Devising means for improved methods of mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, developing and distributing healthy silkworm seeds, reeling or, as the case may be, spinning of the silkworm cocoons & silk waste, improving the quality and production of raw silk, if necessary, by making it compulsory for all raw silk to be marketed only after the same has been tested and graded in properly equipped raw silk conditioning houses;

4. Improving the marketing of raw silk;

5. Collection of statistics relating to sericulture;

6. To advise the Central Government on all matters relating to the development of the raw silk industry, including the import and export of raw silk; and

7. To prepare and furnish such other reports relating to the silk industry as may be required by the Central Government from time to time.

(b)&(c) CSB has set-up an Eco Testing Laboratory and also a Demonstration Cum Technical Service Centre (DCTSC) in Bhagalpur.

The DCTSC addresses to the problems of local weavers of Bhagalpur and provides support to post cocoon sectors i.e. reeling, weaving, dyeing and printing areas depending on the type of technology support required in the specific zone and it organizes programmes to impart training through technology dissemination in such areas. The DCTSC has organized number of training programmes to educate the reelers cum weavers to change their work practices and adopt mechanization to improve productivity and returns. These programmes are aimed at helping to change the practice of thigh reeling of tasar yarn to mechanized reeling. Since 1994-95 till date 42 such training programmes have been conducted in which 287 reelers cum weavers groups have undergone training. Tasar silk is now being predominantly produced on an improved Motorized Reeling cum Twisting machine. Intensive demonstrations for popularizing this machine and using such yarn by the weavers carried out during last three years are given as below:-

Year	Motorized Reeling Cum Twisting Machine(Nos.)	Expd.(Rs.)	Spinning Machine(nos.)	Expd..(Rs.)

1998-99	28	73500	6	18900
1999-00	2	147000	-	6750
2000-01	150	775033	8	10018

The expenditure incurred for the DCTSC and Eco Testing Laboratory during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Demonstration Cum Technical Service Centre	Eco Testing Laboratory
1998-99	9.32	15.17
1999-00	9.64	15.15
2000-01	10.65	16.85

(d)&(e) The Eco Testing Laboratory established in Bhagalpur is primarily to assess the presence of banned azo dyes used in exportable products and has sophisticated machinery. It is functioning and the activities being carried out are indicated below:

(Figures in nos.)

Tests conducted	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Physical	75	99	93	36
Chemical	51	85	62	33
Eco-test	3	2	3	-
Total	129	186	158	69
Revenue earned (Rs.)	25490	43305	40315	5,520